

# CONNECTION

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

January 2007

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Governor Kaine, through Executive Order 37, has provided clear support for the use of performance management tools to ensure that public dollars are invested wisely and that programs are meeting specified performance goals.

Over the next few months, DRPT will work collaboratively with stakeholders to receive feedback in the development of a new program to establish the performance of transit systems and transportation demand management (TDM) programs statewide.

The goal of DRPT's Transit Performance Management program is to support the efficient use of public dollars and to ensure that transit systems and TDM agencies have identified and are achieving specific goals established by DRPT and/or the governing entity of each transit system.

In general, the performance evaluation will determine the extent to which systems have complied with pertinent laws and regulations, established program goals and objectives, developed performance measures and standards, achieved desired program results, and conducted operations in an efficient and economical manner.

DRPT will conduct these evaluations on a triennial basis, and will notify grantees in writing at the beginning of each cycle (July 1) if they will be evaluated during the fiscal year. The current schedule calls for evaluations to begin in July 2007 for FY08. Over the next few months, DRPT will be seeking stakeholder input, developing a final performance evaluation program and assigning program management duties. Following the first year of operations, the FY08 Transit Performance Management program will be reviewed to identify opportunities for improvement.

From my perspective, implementation of this program will help transit systems improve performance, maximize the return on public investment and identify opportunities to increase mobility options across Virginia.

**Matthew Tucker- Director**

## KEY ISSUES

### **DRPT Raises Profile of TDM, Regional Transit Planning:**

To increase DRPT's focus on transportation demand management (TDM), commuter services and regional transit planning programs, the agency has realigned its commuter services team, program management for Northern Virginia transit, and long-range transit planning activities from the Public Transportation Division to the Administration and Capital Projects Division.

This division was most recently involved in supporting the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, but as DRPT's role in the project transitions to developing and implementing the project's congestion management plan, there is an opportunity to bring forward DRPT's strengths in other areas of regional transit management and planning.

The Administration and Capital Projects Division is led by Corey Hill, whose prior experience with regional initiatives such as the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, I-66 MIS and EIS, Capital Beltway studies and other major transit projects will serve DRPT well as the agency begins several new regional transit initiatives this year.

The Public Transportation Division, led by Chip Badger, will continue to push forward with new initiatives in 2007, including statewide coordination plans for the federal New Freedom program and the new Transit Performance Management program. Mr. Badger will also continue to lead the development of DRPT's annual update to the Six-Year Improvement Program.

**Annual Grant Applications Period is Now Open:** DRPT is now accepting applications for federal and state grants for public transportation, commuter service, human service transportation and rail preservation programs for FY 2008.

Applications for public transportation and commuter service grants are being accepted online using DRPT's On Line Grants Administration system (OLGA). All applications for transit and rail preservation funding are due no later than February 1, 2007.

These applications will lead to the development of the transit, commuter service and rail preservation portions of DRPT's FY 2008 - FY 2013 Six-Year Improvement Plan.

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## QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

**Governor's Budget Items:** Governor Kaine's proposed budget amendments through the General Fund include \$135 million in direct support of DRPT programs. In addition, the Governor's 2007 transportation proposal would double the funding available through the Rail Enhancement Fund and provide a state match of 95% for transit capital investments.

In GF amendments, \$45 million would support capital needs of major metropolitan systems, with \$20 million for WMATA, \$15 million for VRE and \$10 million for the Norfolk Light Rail Transit project. There is also \$25 million in one-time capital funding for transit systems statewide, which represents a 55% increase over the FY07 capital program.

Congestion management funding is available for solicited private sector initiatives involving highway, transit, demand management and technology to reduce congestion and improve travel time with \$10 million each for Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia.

For rail, \$65 million would directly support improvements in the I-95 and I-81 rail corridors. Approximately \$20 million would support the completion of VTA 2000 projects in the I-95 corridor, and remaining funds would be available for rail improvements in the I-81 corridor.

**Third Track Study:** In Dec. 2006, DRPT completed the General Assembly directive of HB 5012 on the feasibility of constructing a third track in the I-95 rail corridor. The study indicates a minimal/partial cost estimate of \$684 million, which excludes key factors such as the route through Ashland and Fredericksburg, a new bridge across the Potomac River, the acquisition of right of way and the relocation of utilities. Following the results of this study, DRPT has developed a strategic, step by step approach to implementing a third track in the corridor.

**TDX Update Report:** In Jan. 2007, DRPT issued an update on the TransDominion Express (TDX) proposed passenger rail service, in response to HB 5002. The report updates ridership projections, capital and operating costs, and anticipated revenues.

**Roanoke Region Intermodal Facility:** The public comment period for ten sites submitted for the facility location continues until Jan. 16, 2007, and DRPT held a public meeting in the Roanoke area at the VDOT Salem District Auditorium on Dec. 13, 2006. DRPT is working with VDOT, the Virginia Port Authority and others to evaluate sites and develop a recommendation for the application of Rail Enhancement Funds to a specific site. Upon completion of the public comment period, DRPT will issue a public involvement report to respond to public questions. A decision regarding the best site for the achievement of public benefits, and application of public funds, is anticipated in Feb. 2007.

## STATUS OF KEY PROJECTS

◆ **Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project:** See the attached supplement for the latest information on the project.

◆ **I-95/395/495 HOT Lanes Working Group:** This quarter, DRPT organized a transit and commuter services advisory committee for the I-95/395/495 HOT Lanes PPTA project and held two committee meetings. The committee is charged with examining all issues related to transit and HOV use of the facility, and with developing a plan for new and improved transit service in the corridor.

◆ **Washington, DC/Richmond Rail Corridor:** Detailed engineering is underway for the four remaining MOU projects: L'Enfant 3<sup>rd</sup> Track, Slater's Lane Crossover, Franconia Hill Third Track and Fredericksburg Third Track Rehabilitation. The current schedule calls for completion of these projects by the end of 2007, and Governor Kaine's budget proposal includes approximately \$20 million in support of these projects.



◆ **Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan:** DRPT is developing a state plan to assess the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, seniors and people with limited income. This plan will produce an inventory of available services and identify gaps in service, as well as strategies to address those gaps. It will also identify coordination actions to eliminate or reduce duplication of service and maximize resources. The Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan is scheduled for completion in fall 2007.

## GRANTS UPDATE

**Impact:** In the second quarter of FY07, DRPT expended over \$36 million in public transportation, commuter services and planning programs and over \$4 million in passenger and freight rail programs and studies. DRPT also provided \$4 million in support of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

In addition, rail industrial access grants for this quarter supported over \$116 million in local capital investment and more than 1,000 new or sustained jobs.